

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Please replace pending drawing sheet 4/5 with the enclosed replacement sheet 4/5. In the replacement sheet, Figures 3 and 4 have been amended to include reference number 50, as discussed below.

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Prior to this amendment, claims 2, 5, and 9-19 were pending in the application. Applicants currently cancel claims 2 and 17 without prejudice and solely to expedite allowance of allowable subject matter. Applicants currently amend claims 5, 9-11, 15 and 18. New claims 22-25 are added. Thus, upon entry of this amendment, claims 5, 9, 10-16, 18, 19, and 22-25 will be pending and presented for further examination.

Amendments to the Drawings

Applicants submit herewith replacement sheet 4/5, in which Figures 3 and 4 are amended to include reference character 50, which refers to the peninsula. Replacement sheet 4/5 is labeled "Replacement Sheet," in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.121. Support for the amendments to the figures is found, for example, at least in the specification as originally filed (i.e., the PCT published application WO2005/016779) at page 11, lines 5-15.

Applicants submit that the amendments to the drawings introduce no new matter.

Amendments to the Claims

Claims 5 and 10 are amended to include the features of cancelled claim 2.

Claim 9 is amended for clarity by deleting the phrase "close to and".

Claim 11 is amended to depend from claim 5 rather than cancelled claim 2.

Claims 15 and 18 are amended to correct antecedent basis.

New claims 22-25 depend from claim 10, but otherwise are the same as claims 11-14.

Applicants submit that the amendments to the claims introduce no new matter.

Drawing Objections

The figure were objected to as failing to show the overcap feature, which is recited in the claims. Without acquiescing to the rejection and solely to expedite prosecution, Applicants cancel claim 17, which is the only claim that refers to the overcap feature.

Figures 3 and 4 were objected to as failing to include reference character 50, which is mentioned in the specification. As noted above, Applicants have amended Figures 3 and 4 to include reference character 50.

In view of the cancellation of claim 17 and the amendments to Figures 3 and 4, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections are respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

Claim 9 was objected to as allegedly being indefinite because “an extension beyond a center must pass close to the center.” Office Action at p.3. Without acquiescing to the objection and solely to expedite allowance, claim 9 has been amended to delete the phrase “close to and”. As a result, claim 9 now reads, in relevant part, “passing beyond a center”.

Claim 18 was objected to as allegedly lacking antecedent basis for “the periphery”. Accordingly, claim 18 has been amended to provide proper antecedent basis by replacing “the” with the indefinite article “a”. Similar changes are made to claim 15.

In view of the claims amendments, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections are respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 2, 11, and 12 were rejected as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,892,227 to MacLaughlin (“MacLaughlin”). Without acquiescing to the rejection and solely to expedite allowance, claim 2 is cancelled. In addition, claims 11 and 12 are amended to depend from allowable claim 5, and new claims 22 and 23 (which are similar to claims 11 and 12) are added to depend from allowable claim 10.

Since claims 11 and 12 now depend from an allowable claim, Applicants submit the rejection is moot. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claim 14 was rejected as allegedly obvious over MacLaughlin. Without acquiescing to the rejection and solely to expedite allowance, claim 14 now ultimately depends from allowable

claim 5. In addition, new claim 25 (which is similar to claim 14) is added to depend from allowable claim 10.

Since claim 14 now depends from an allowable claim, Applicants submit the rejection is moot. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter


As suggested by the Examiner, claims 5 and 10 have been rewritten in independent form to include the features of cancelled claim 2. In addition, claim 13 now ultimately depends from claim 5, and new claim 24 (which is similar in scope to claim 13) is added to depend from claim 10. Thus, all of the pending claims now relate to subject matter identified as allowable in the Office action.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney if the Examiner believes an interview could advance prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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